

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 INT-08 COME-00

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2772

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAUGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EIND, AS

SUBJ: BAUXITE PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 046483

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE GOA
MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE, DR. JIM CAIRNS, RELEASED
TO THE PRESS ON MARCH 11 (UNESSENTIAL WORDS OMITTED).

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COMMENT FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL.

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2. MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE, DR. J.F. CAIRNS, SAID TODAY THAT GOVERNMENT WELCOMED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MEETING OF BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES AT CONAKRY, GUINEA, HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION. DR. CAIRNS SAID THIS WHEN COMMENTING ON COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING ON FRIDAY LAST.

3. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION, TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT MAJOR POINTS OF CONCERN TO AUSTRALIA WHICH WOULD HAVE A FULL AND EFFECTIVE VOICE IN DELIBERATIONS OF ASSOCIATION, MINISTER SAID. ON RETURN OF DELEGATION, GOVERNMENT WOULD EXAMINE RESULTS OF MEETING WITH ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF COMPLETING NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATION.

4. THE MINISTER SAID THAT SEVEN COUNTRIES (GUINEA, GUYANA, JAMAICA, SIERRA LEONE, SURINAM, YUGOSLAVIA AND AUSTRALIA) HAD PARTICIPATED IN MEETING, ALL OF WHICH, EXCEPT AUSTRALIA, HAD BEEN REPRESENTED BY MINISTERS. A NUMBER OF OTHER BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE CAMEROUN AND MALI, HAD ATTENDED MEETING ON OBSERVER BASIS. MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SENATOR WILLESEE, WHO WAS TO HAVE LED AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION, HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO, HAVING TAKEN ILL EN ROUTE TO CONAKRY. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION HAD COMPRISED SENIOR OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENTS OF OVERSEAS TRADE, MINERALS AND ENERGY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. MINISTER SAID THAT ASSOCIATION WOULD COME FORMALLY INTO EXISTENCE WHEN THE SEVEN FOUNDING MEMBERS HAD COMPLETED LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO THEIR MEMBERSHIP. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION WOULD BE LOCATED IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA, WHILE THE ASSOCIATION'S PRINCIPAL ORGANS WOULD BE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, EXECUTIVE BOARD AND SECRETARIAT. PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE IN AGREEMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO BECOME MEMBERS. IT IS AUSTRALIA'S FIRM HOPE THAT ALL BAUXITE EXPORTING COUNTRIES WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE

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ASSOCIATION FROM THE OUTSET, HE SAID.

6. DR. CAIRNS SAID THAT COMMUNIQUE HAD REFERRED TO INTENTION EXPRESSED BY PARTICIPANTS AT CONFERENCE TO SECURE FAIR AND EQUIABLE RETURNS FROM EXPLOITATION OF THEIR BAUXITE RESOURCES IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BEARING IN MIND THAT RECOGNIZED INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMERS OF BAUXITE PRODUCTS. THESE ASPIRATIONS

ARE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH AUSTRALIA'S POLICY TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE FAIR AND REASONABLE RETURNS FROM THEIR EXPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS, MINISTER SAID. THIS WAS ESSENTIAL IF THESE COUNTRIES WERE TO HAVE A CHANCE OF ACHIEVING TAKE-OFF TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE NEW INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION COULD DO MUCH TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHICH, WITH EXCEPTION OF AUSTRALIA, ACCOUNTED FOR GREAT BULK OF WORLD'S PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF BAUXITE.

7. AT SAME TIME, DR. CIARS SAID, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT A RESPONSIBLE APPROACH BE TAKEN AND HE WAS PLEASED THAT AGREEMENT PAID DUE REGARD TO INTERESTS OF CONSUMING COUNTRIES. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MACHINERY WOULD BE DEVELOPED TO PERMIT EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION WITH CONSUMING COUNTRIES. WHILE AUSTRALIA WAS FIRMLY OF THE VIEW THAT THE RESOURCE PRODUCING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE SECURE AND STEADY MARKETS FOR THEIR EXPORTS AT FAIR AND REASONABLE PRICES, THERE WAS NO QUESTION, AS FAR AS AUSTRALIA IS CONCERNED, OF THE RESOURCE PRODUCERS EXPLOITING THE RESOURCE USERS.

8. DR. CAIRNS CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT CONFERENCE HAD PRODUCED A HIGHLY CONSTRUCTIVE RESULT WHICH WOULD PERMIT FULL AND EFFECTIVE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THEIR COMMON INTERESTS. AUSTRALIA'S PRESENCE AT THE MEETING HAD DOUBTLESS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS. END QTE.
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